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<u>INFORMATION</u> <u>DISCLOSURE STATEMENT</u> <u>UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.97</u> Address to: Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450	Attorney Docket	LIFE-072CON6
	First Named Inventor	SHARTLE, ROBERT JUSTICE
	Application Number	10/666,846
	Confirmation No.	5766
	Filing Date	September 18, 2003
	Group Art Unit	1743
	Examiner Name	To Be Assigned
	Title: "VACUUM LOADED TEST STRIP WITH STOP JUNCTION AND BYPASS CHANNEL"	

Sir:

Applicants hereby submit an Information Disclosure Statement along with attached form(s) PTO/SB/08. A copy of each listed publication is being submitted herewith, along with a concise explanation of information in a foreign language, if any, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97-1.98.

Applicants respectfully request that the listed information be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the above-identified application. Applicants further request that the Examiner initial and return the attached form(s) PTO/SB/08 in accordance with MPEP §609.

Applicants reserves the right to establish the patentability of the claimed invention over any of the information provided herewith, and/or to prove that this information may not be prior art, and/or to prove that this information may not be enabling for the teachings purportedly offered.

This statement is not intended to represent that a search has been made or that the information cited in the statement is, or is considered to be, prior art or material to patentability as defined in §1.56.

☒ This statement qualifies under 37 C.F.R. §1.97, subsection (b) because:

- ☐ (1) It is being filed within 3 months of the application filing date and is other than a continued prosecution application under § 1.53(d)
-- OR --
- ☐ (2) It is being filed within 3 months of entry of a national stage
-- OR --
- ☒ (3) It is being filed before the mail date of the first Office Action on the merits
-- OR --

- ☐ (4) It is being filed before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under § 1.114.
- ☐ 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c). If this statement is being filed after the latest of: (1) three months beyond the filing date of a national application; (2) three months beyond the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in §1.491 in an international application; or (3) the mailing date of a first Office action on the merits, but before the mailing date of the earlier of a final office action under §1.113 or a notice of allowance under §1.311, then:
- ☐ a certification as specified in §1.97(e) is provided below; or
- ☐ a fee of \$180.00 as set forth in §1.17(p) is authorized below, enclosed, or included with the payment of other papers filed together with this statement.
- ☐ 37 C.F.R. §1.97(d). If this statement is being filed after the mailing date of the earlier of a final office action under §1.113 or a notice of allowance under §1.311, but before payment of the issue fee, then:
- A. a certification as specified in §1.97(e) is completed below; and
- B. a fee of \$180.00 as set forth in §1.17(p) is authorized below, enclosed, or included with the payment of other papers filed together with this statement.
- ☐ Copies of each of the references listed on the attached Form PTO/SB/08 are enclosed herewith.
- ☒ Copies of references listed on the attached Form PTO/SB/08 are enclosed herewith EXCEPT THAT:
- ☐ In view of the voluminous nature of references, and the likelihood that these references are available to the Examiner in the file history of the parent application (Serial No. 10/264,662), copies are not enclosed herewith.
- ☐ If any of the foregoing publications are not available to the Examiner, Applicant will endeavor to supply copies at the Examiner's request.
- ☒ Copies of only foreign patent documents and non-patent literature are enclosed in accordance with 37 CFR 1.98 (a)(2). (The U.S. patents and each U.S. patent application publication listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 are not enclosed because this U.S. patent application was filed after June 30, 2003 or this international application has entered the national stage under 35 USC §371 after June 30, 2003 (see USPTO waiver of requirement under 37 CFR 1.98 (a)(2)(i)).
- ☒ There are no listed references which are not in the English language.
- ☐ The relevance of those listed references which are not in the English language is as follows:

- ☐ Attached are copies of search report(s) from corresponding patent application(s), submitted in accordance with MPEP 609 D in support of the attached certification under 37 CFR 1.97(e)(1).
- ☐ Attached are the following non-published pending patent applications which may be deemed relevant.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment of fees associated with this communication, including any necessary fees for extensions of time, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0815, order number LIFE-072CON6.

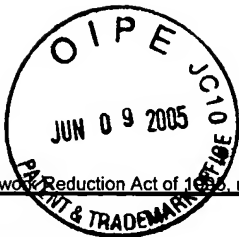
Respectfully submitted,
BOZICEVIC, FIELD & FRANCIS LLP

Date: 06/09/06

By: 

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PTO/SB/08a (08-03)

Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(fill in as many checks as necessary)</i>		Complete if Known			
		Application Number	10/666,846		
		Filing Date	September 18, 2003		
		First Named Inventor	SHARTLE, ROBERT JUSTICE		
		Art Unit	1743		
		Examiner Name	To Be Assigned		
Sheet	1	of	2	Attorney Docket Number	LIFE-072CON6

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials'	Cite No. ¹	Document Number		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)				
		US- 4,420,566		12-13-1983	Jessop et al	
		US- 4,822,568		04-18-1989	Tomlita	
		US- 4,847,209		07-11-1989	Lewis et al.	
		US- 4,877,745		10-31-1989	Hayes et al.	
		US- 4,935,346		06-19-1990	Phillips et al.	
		US- 5,049,487		09-17-1991	Phillips et al.	
		US- 5,104,813		04-14-1992	Besemer et al.	
		US- 5,100,620		03-31-1992	Brenneman	
		US- 5,366,902		11-22-1994	Cox et al.	
		US- 5,610,287		03-11-1997	Nikiforov et al.	
		US- 5,674,699		10-07-1997	Saunders et al.	
		US- 5,708,278		01-13-1998	Lowne	
		US- 5,728,352		03-17-1998	Poto et al.	
		US- 5,827,681		10-27-1998	Krug et al.	
		US- 6,066,448		05-23-2000	Wohlstadter et al.	
		US- 6,084,660		07-04-2000	Shartle	
		US- 6,362,890		03-26-2002	Petrich et al.	
		US- 6,640,267		10-28-2003	Raza	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials ¹	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document ¹	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
		WO 99/18426	04-15-1999	Tajnafoi		
		WO 93/22452	11-11-1993	Kilty et al.		
		WO 92/12117	05-04-1995	Davis et al.		
		EP 0 803 288 A2	10-29-1997	Naka et al.		
		EP 0 922 954 A2	03-12-1998	Riedel		

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. 1 Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). 2 See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. 3 Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). 4 For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. 5 Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. 6 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>		Complete if Known			
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		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)				
		US-	2002/0110486	08-15-2002	Shartle et al.	
		US-	2003/0156983	08-21-2003	Shartle et al.	
		US-	2003/0210287	11-13-2003	Harding et al.	
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
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		Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (if known)					
		EP 1 069 427 A2		01-17-2001	Shartle		

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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